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Message Text

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46
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /047 W
---------- 125035
O R 152000Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2754
INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 9685

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PE
SUBJECT: GOP 1968 EXPULSION OF EMBOFFS

MONTEVIDEO FOR AMBASSADOR SIRACUSA

REF: (A) LIMA 9655, (B) LIMA 9646, (C) ROGERS/BOWDLER-DEAN
PHONECON NOVEMBER 14

1. HAVING LEARNED FROM REF PHONECON THAT UPI WASHINGTON HAD FILED STORY CHARACTERIZING AS "COMPLETELY FALSE" PRESIDENT VELASCO'S NOVEMBER 13 PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT THAT REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT HAD ASKED TWO EMBOFFS TO LEAVE PERU BECAUSE THEY WERE CIA AGENTS, I MET WITH FONMIN DE LA FLOR AT AIRPORT UPON HIS RETURN QUITO AT 2:30 A.M. NOVEMBER 15. DE LA FLOR AGREED THAT WE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO KILL STORY IN LOCAL PRESS OR AT MINIMUM TO DE-FUSE IT. HE INSTRUCTED FONOFF PRESS OFFICER FAURA TO WORK TOWARD THAT END.

2. FAURA AND I CONTACTED ALL LOCAL NEWSPAPERS DURING NIGHT. AS RESULT, STORY DOES NOT APPEAR IN MOST PAPERS NOVEMBER 15. LIMA DAILY EL COMERCIO, HOWEVER, HAD ALREADY "GONE TO BED" AND COULD NOT MAKE MAJGW CHANGE. IT NEVERTHELESS PRINTED EDITOR'S NOTE BASED ON STATEMENT FROM ME SAYING THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD NOT AUTHORIZED USE OF THE PHRASE "COMPLETELY FALSE" AND, IN MY OPINION,
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THAT THE INFORMATION IN THE UPI STORY DID NOT FAITHFULLY REFLECT

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THE IDEAS THAT WASHINGTON OFFICIALS WISHED TO EXPRESS. EXACT
TEXT OF EDITOR'S NOTE READS IN TRANSLATION AS FOLLOWS. QUOTE:
AT 1:30 AM (SIC) THIS MORNING, THE AMBASSADOR OF THE USA, ROBERT
DEAN, INFORMED EL COMERCIO THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OF HIS
COUNTRY HAD NOT AUTHORIZED USE OF THE PHRASE "COMPLETELY FALSE"
AS THE CABLED UPI DESPATCH INDICATES, AND THAT, IN HIS OPINION,
THE INFORMATION FROM WASHINGTON DOES NOT FAITHFULLY REFLECT THE
IDEAS THAT NORTH AMERICAN OFFICIALS WISHED TO EXPRESS. UNQUOTE

3. FORNMIN DE LA FLOR WILL MEET WITH PRESIDENT VELASCO THIS MORN-
ING. WE ARE ALSO WORKING WITH FONOFF PRESS OFFICER TO AVOID REPLAY-
ING OF "COMPLETELY FALSE" QUOTES IN OTHER LOCAL MEDIA.

4. COMMENT: IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH FONMIN, FONOFF SECGEN
AND PRESS OFFICER, I HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT THERE IS NO
TRUTH WHATEVER TO ALLEGATIONS THAT AMBASSADOR SIRACUSA OR MR.
ORTIZ WERE AFFILIATED ANY TIME IN ANY WAY WITH CIA. (HOWEVER, AS
DEPARTMENT KNOWS, THE GOP DID ASK TWO EMBASSY OFFICERS TO DEPART
IN THE 1969-70 TIMEFRAME. THUS THE FLAT STATEMENT IN THE UPI
STORY THAT PRESIDENT VELASCO'S STATEMENT WAS COMPLETELY FALSE
DOES NOT HOLD UP.)
DEAN

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